



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Washington, DC 20240  
<http://www.blm.gov>



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In Reply Refer To:  
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## Memorandum

To: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From:  Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management 

Subject: BLM Commitments and Assurances to Implement Formalized Conservation Efforts for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and other Federal, State, local and private partners for several years to conserve the Bi-State distinct population segment (DPS) of Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). For over a decade, we have been active participants in the Bi-State Local Area Working Group (LAWG) and we continue to play a pivotal role in this cooperative, multi-jurisdictional effort to conserve the DPS. During fiscal year 2012, the BLM, working with the Service and our other cooperators, developed a science-based conservation plan (Bi-State Action Plan) designed to: 1) Increase our knowledge and understanding of the DPS, 2) Improve habitat conditions for the DPS, 3) Remove threats to the DPS, and 4) Improve the overall population status of the DPS. Since release of the Bi-State Action Plan in March 2012, we have collectively worked to further refine and strategically implement the unprecedented cooperative conservation effort embodied by this plan.

The Bi-State Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) estimates that it will cost approximately \$38 million to fully implement the remaining priority conservation actions formalized in the refined Bi-State Action Plan. Approximately \$6.5 million of this cost estimate is the responsibility of the BLM.

This memorandum transmits my commitment to implementing our portion of the Bi-State Action Plan. Attached is our projected ten-year implementation strategy focused on conservation actions as identified by the Bi-State Technical Advisory Committee. Consistent with your Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts, adaptive management is a key component of the Bi-State Action Plan. Therefore, we expect that project priorities and associated funding will be adjusted as new science and/or site specific information becomes available. We are committed to refining the attached implementation strategy accordingly. Our primary objective is to ensure both “certainty of implementation” and “certainty of effectiveness” for the overall conservation effort.

Above and beyond the approximately \$6.5 million in the Bi-State Action Plan, the BLM field units that will be implementing the plan are finalizing a Service First Agreement that will provide increased assurances for successful implementation of the plan. The BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and your agency are identifying additional opportunities to work together, and we are coordinating with State and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to leverage funding that will implement the overall conservation effort.

The Service has indicated that increased regulatory mechanisms resulting from land use plan decisions will be an important factor as the Service determines whether federal protection is needed. Accordingly, I am re-affirming our commitment to finalize and implement plan amendments for the Carson City and Tonopah Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The Final Environmental Impact Statement for these amendments is being prepared jointly with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and is planned for completion prior to your April 2015 listing decision for the DPS. These amendments will include standards and guidelines specifically designed to conserve and enhance habitat for the DPS and will substantially increase the level of regulatory certainty for conservation of the DPS. They will also increase consistency across jurisdictional boundaries and help facilitate implementation of the Bi-State Action Plan. I believe that this effort, combined with the proven effectiveness of the Bishop RMP, will ensure that adequate regulatory mechanisms are in place to conserve and restore habitat on public lands throughout the range of the DPS.

I commend the Service for reopening the comment period on the proposed rule to list the Bi-State DPS based on the availability of new scientific information. This information is consistent with our understanding of current sub-populations and the population monitoring data available for the DPS. This data indicates that, with the possible exception of the Parker Meadows sub-population, population trends across the DPS are stable. In our view, when combined with other restoration efforts and increased regulatory certainty, these trends provide a persuasive argument that listing may no longer be warranted.

In closing, the Bi-State EOC will be submitting additional information describing this cooperative, multi-jurisdictional effort to conserve an at-risk species. I encourage you to fully consider and recognize the considerable investment that the BLM and our Federal, State, local, and private partners, including the Service, have already committed to the long-term conservation of the Bi-State DPS.

I understand that the Service faces a complex and difficult decision regarding the status of the DPS. However, I believe that the current level of interagency coordination and commitment, combined with the high level of support from the Bi-State LAWG, provides a unique opportunity for an efficient and effective cooperative conservation effort that may preclude the need to list the DPS. Irrespective of the outcome of your final listing decision, the BLM remains committed to working with the Service and our other cooperators to ensure the long-term conservation of the DPS and the ecosystems on which they depend.

If we can provide any additional information that may be useful in your final status review, please have your staff contact the appropriate field office. If you have any questions regarding the commitments articulated above, please contact Ed Roberson or me at 202-208-4896.

cc: Tony Wasely, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife/Co-Chair Bi-State EOC  
James G. Kenna, California State Director, BLM  
Amy L. Lueders, Nevada State Director, BLM  
Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief, USFS  
Jason Weller, Chief, NRCS  
Marcia K. McNutt, Director, USGS

BLM Ten-Year Strategy for Funding Implementation of the Bi-State Action Plan

Fiscal Year	Activity	Action Plan ID #	Action Plan Priority	Activity/Restoration Goals	Cost
FY 15	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout for FY 16 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mormon Ranch Conifer Removal	MER 4-1	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 1095 acres.	\$191,540
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the South Mono and Pine Nut PMUs.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$85,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$651,540</b>
FY 16	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout for FY 17 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Lower Summers Meadow Conifer Removal	MER 4-1	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 606 acres.	\$110,904
	<b>Implementation:</b> Lower Summers Meadow Conifer Removal	MER 4-1	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 72 acres.	\$12,628
	<b>Implementation:</b> Coyote Spring Conifer Removal	MER 4-8	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 893 acres.	\$156,780
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the South Mono and Pine Nut PMUs.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$35,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000

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FY 16	Monitoring	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$650,312</b>
FY 17	NEPA/Planning			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout for FY 18 projects.	\$120,000
	NEPA/Planning			Cultural Resource Surveys for Mill Canyon Unit	\$20,000
	Implementation: Big Flat Conifer Removal	MER 4-1	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 795 acres.	\$139,187
	Implementation: Dry Lakes Conifer Removal	MER 4-5	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 53 acres.	\$9,247
	Implementation: Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	Implementation: Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	Implementation: Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	Implementation: Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	Implementation: Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the South Mono and Pine Nut PMUs.	\$85,000
	Implementation: Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$85,000
	CPT and Science Advisor Funding	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
Monitoring	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$45,000	
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$653,434</b>
FY 18	NEPA/Planning			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 19 projects.	\$120,000
	Implementation: Dynamo Pond Conifer Removal	MER 4-1	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 963 acres.	\$179,985
	Implementation: Baldwin Canyon Conifer Removal (Partial Unit)	MER 4-7	High	Remove Cover Class 1 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 800 acres.	\$140,000
	Implementation: Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	Implementation: Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	Implementation: Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	Implementation: Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	Implementation: Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Bodie PMU.	\$10,000

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Fiscal Year	Activity	Action Plan ID #	Action Plan Priority	Activity/Restoration Goals	Cost
FY 18	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$10,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$659,985</b>
FY 19	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 20 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Sinnamon Cut North Unit Conifer Removal	MER 4-8	Moderate	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 897 acres.	\$165,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Lapon Canyon Unit Conifer Removal (partial unit)	MER 4-7	High	Remove Cover Class 1 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 800 acres.	\$140,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Bodie PMU.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$15,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$650,000</b>
FY 20	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 21 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> White Mountain Unit Conifer Removal	MER 4-10	Moderate	Remove Cover Class conifer 1 to improve sagebrush habitat. 700 acres.	\$129,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Sinnamon Cut Unit 2 Conifer Removal	MER 4-8	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 897 acres.	\$165,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000

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FY 20	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Bodie PMU.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$25,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$55,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$654,000</b>
FY 21	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 22 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cottonwood Canyon Conifer Removal	MER 4-8	High	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 913 acres.	\$165,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Bodie PMU.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$100,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$650,000</b>
FY 22	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 23 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Sagehen Conifer Removal	MER 4-12	Moderate	Remove Cover Class 1 and 2 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 857 acres.	\$155,767
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000

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FY 22	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Mt. Grant PMU.	\$75,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$100,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$650,767</b>
FY 23	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 24 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Watterson Canyon Conifer Removal	MER 4-13	High	Remove Cover Class 1 conifer to improve sagebrush habitat. 1359 acres.	\$229,995
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat in priority upland sites.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Infrastructure	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the Mt. Grant PMU.	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Wild Horses	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$75,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$649,995</b>
FY 24	<b>NEPA/Planning</b>			Planning, cultural resource surveys, contracting and layout FY 24/25 projects.	\$120,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Mill Canyon	HIR1-1 PN	High	100% removal of pinyon in Mill Canyon Unit. 301 acres.	\$65,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-1B	Moderate	Improve meadow habitat through restoration of riparian areas, including headcut repair, mowing, burning, and fencing.	\$15,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Bodie Early Brood Rearing Habitat	HIR 2-2B	Moderate	Improve early brood rearing habitat through mowing and burning in decadent sagebrush	\$25,000
	<b>Implementation:</b> Cheatgrass Control Pine Nut PMU		Moderate	Reduce cheatgrass occurrence in sage-grouse habitat. 100 acres.	\$10,000

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FY 24	<b>Implementation: Infrastructure</b>	MER 3-1 thru 3-12	High	Identify and implement actions to mitigate infrastructure related threats in priority grouse habitat in the All PMUs managed by the BLM.	\$130,000
	<b>Implementation: Wild Horses</b>	MER 6-2, 6-3 & 6-4	Moderate	Identify and implement actions to mitigate wild horse and burro related threats in priority grouse habitat.	\$140,000
	<b>CPT and Science Advisor Funding</b>	SAM 1-1, SAM 2	High	Yearly support for science based management through USGS and use of CPT.	\$35,000
	<b>Monitoring</b>	SAM 2		Monitoring of habitat projects, wild horses and sage-grouse. Adapt project priorities and methods based on monitoring.	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$630,000</b>
<b>Total All Fiscal Years</b>					<b>\$6,500,033</b>